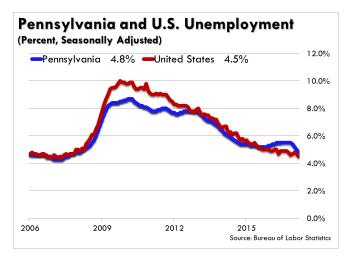
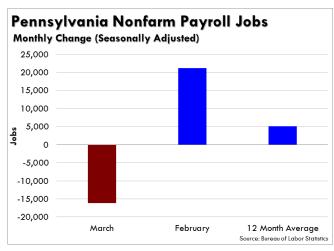
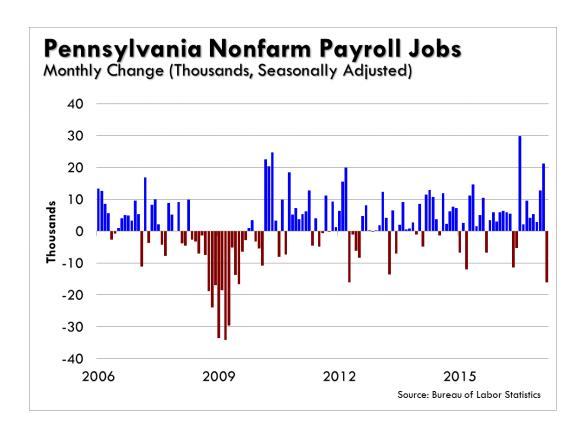
**April 23, 2017** 

# **Summary**

- Pennsylvania lost 16,100 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.2
  percentage point to 4.8 percent in March according to Bureau of Labor Statistics
  (BLS) data.
- Over the past twelve months, Pennsylvania added 60,600 jobs and the unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage point from 5.4 percent.
- In March, Pennsylvania's private sector lost 17,200 jobs and over the past twelve months it created 60,500 jobs.
- The number of unemployed Pennsylvanians fell by 9,535 in March, and over the past year 40,712 Pennsylvanians found jobs.
- Pennsylvania's labor force participation rate increased to 62.9 percent from 62.8 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.1 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.







### Pennsylvania Payroll Employment

Pennsylvania lost 16,100 jobs, or 0.27 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Pennsylvania added 21,200 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Pennsylvania increased by 60,600, or 1.03 percent. Pennsylvania nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

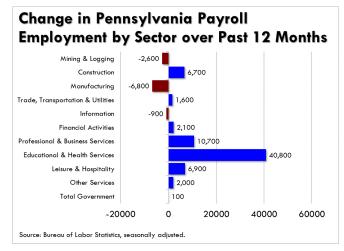
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Pennsylvania ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Pennsylvania's private-sector lost 17,200 jobs, or 0.33 percent. The private-sector in Pennsylvania added 19,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Pennsylvania increased by 60,500, or 1.17 percent. Pennsylvania private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Pennsylvania ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Professional & Business Services (+3,600) and Total Government (+1,100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-8,200) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-6,000).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+40,800) and Professional & Business Services (+10,700). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve



months were Manufacturing (-6,800) and Mining & Logging (-2,600).

# **Pennsylvania Labor Force Statistics**

#### Labor Force Participation

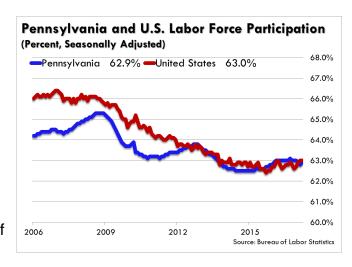
The labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania rose to 62.9 percent in March from 62.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 30 have a higher labor force participation rate than Pennsylvania. The labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania was 65.3 percent in December 2008. This also represents the series high for the labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 62.5 percent in March 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the

labor force participation rate hit 58.1 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

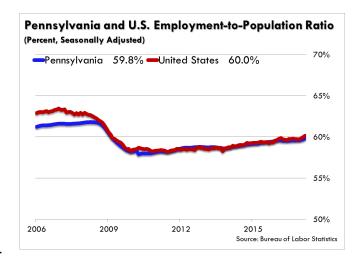
#### Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Pennsylvania civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 59.8 percent in March from 59.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of



Columbia, 30 have higher employment-topopulation ratios than Pennsylvania. The employment-to-population ratio in Pennsylvania is 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Pennsylvania was 61.8 percent in June 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Pennsylvania occurred in March 2001 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.1 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 57.9 percent in April



2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 52.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.